

Application No.: 09/960,487
Amendment Dated: February 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: November 21, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Jackson for allowing Claims 24-26 and for indicating allowability of Claims 3, 14, 21, 22 and 23 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have added new Claims 27-70. New Claim 27 is supported by Claims 1, 9 and allowable Claim 14. New Claim 28 is supported by Claim 1 and allowable Claim 21. New dependent Claims 29-70 are supported by Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 12-23 as originally filed. Thus, Claims 27-70 are allowable.

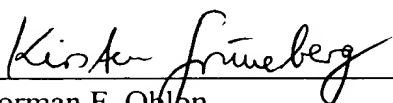
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that all references cited in the **Information Disclosure Statement**, filed in the above-identified application on **September 24, 2001**, have been considered. Applicants note that the Examiner has not initialed **reference AD**. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of Form PTO 1449 of **September 24, 2001**, is attached herewith.

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Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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